

FRENCH INDO-CHINA

as were, agriculture was almost the sole benefactor. There was only one *real* in the whole country, the Mandarin Route, was distinguishable from the adjacent uncultivated fields. were only narrow paths, dangerous bamboo bridges by river craft. *The memmes* of great mandarins recall costly* and dangerous such travel used to be even for of consequence. In general, however, the mandarins the means of communication, since it would mean a over them by the central government. A postal the existed, but exclusively for official use. Such relays the major river routes and paths at intervals of The code decreed penalties for damage and delay of Unofficial news travelled with even greater have lived in Annam are impressed by the incom- of rumour. service left its deepest imprint in the domain of agri- dyke-building and canal dredging. In this the Annamites the of the Far East. They showed the same extraordinary perseverance in contending with a nature which was, far violent than in BoBand, The Tonkinese character the of this straggle: their industry contrasts with the more Anaamttes. Anuain's imperial annals reveal a with the problem of dykes. Mandarins who those who neglected them were punished, the by those¹ who wantonly destroyed them. of done by local *corvees* under govern- The used were so primitive that the results •re ill the to and public bufldings were a very secondary by the village *om[^]ee* system, so that the had to a desirable site and supply the materials t&4 the uigeot repairs could be undertaken rod all con[^]ractioii had to conform t* * Tie at Hue are examples of the

They weal a colossal effort and a sure

Ttie	mm	Imi>	pronaces,. each
under its			
	Hie		was Ae dbject of
	imperial		